

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL,

FOR SEPTEMBER, 1853.

The Society met on the 7th instant at the usual hour.

J. R. COLVIN, Esq. V. P., in the Chair.

Dr. Porter was introduced as a Visitor by Dr. A. Sprenger.

The proceedings of the last month were read and confirmed.

The accounts and vouchers for the month of July were laid on the table.

Donations were announced:—

1st.—From J. A. Cockburn, Esq. Superintendent, Barrackpore Park: The Carcass of a Leopard, *Felis leopardus*.

2nd.—From Mon. C. Holmboe, Secretary of the Royal University of Christiania: The latest publications of the University as per list in the Library Report.

3rd.—From Hodgson Pratt, Esq. Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, specimens of copper smelted in Dhulbhoom, a district in the South West Frontier Agency, together with reports on the quality of the same by the Assay and Mint Masters.

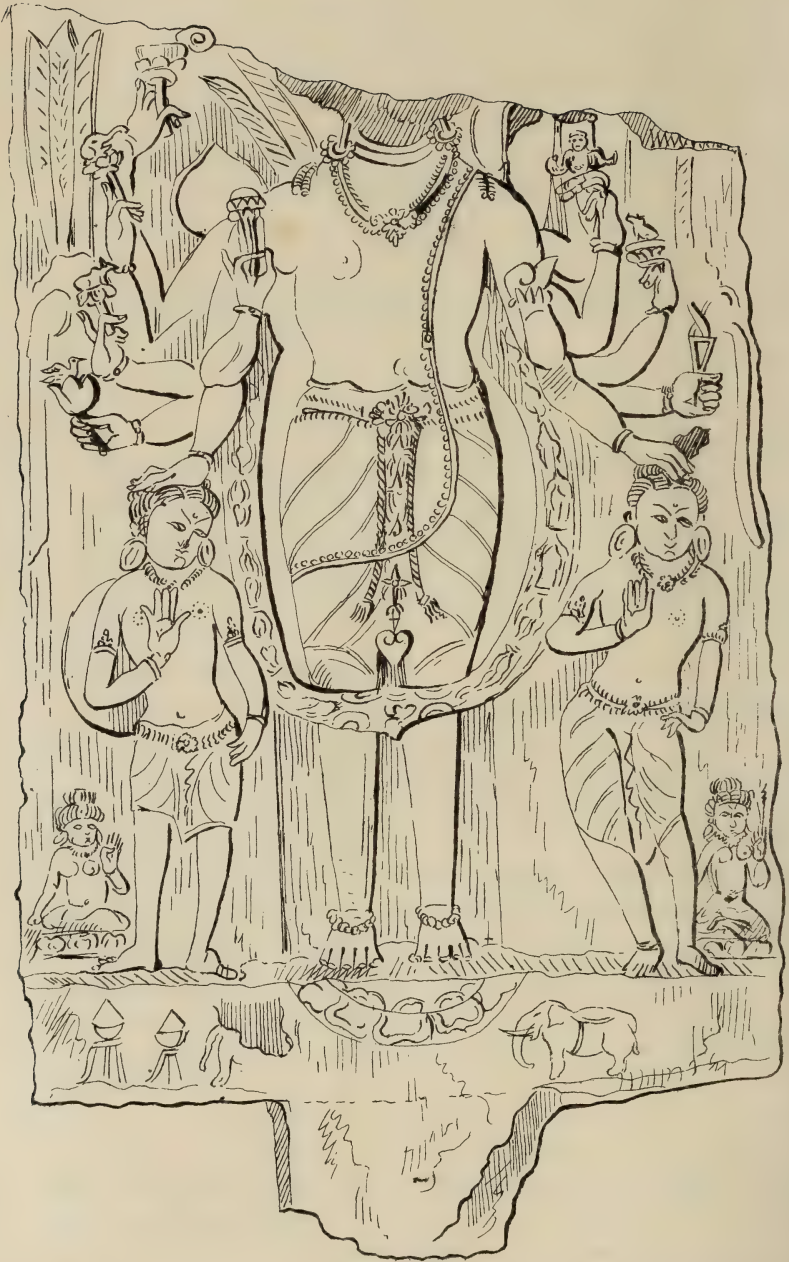
The following is an extract from the Assay Master's report.

“I have the honor to report that their (the specimens') pure contents are as under:

No. 1	90 per cent.
No. 2	88 ditto ditto;

they both contain sulphur and iron, and seem to be fair specimens of metal imperfectly refined.”

The Mint Master adds that on trial at the laminating rollers of the Mint both specimens were found unmalleable.



Remains of a 12 armed Idol found on the Site of an ancient City built by Rajah Mūhēe Pāl at Ghysabad near Moorshedabad.

4th.—From Captain Layard, two slabs of basalt inscribed with Páli characters.

The following is an extract from Captain L.'s letter :

“I yesterday put on board a boat belonging to Messrs. J. and R. Watson which leaves Berhampore this morning, two stones from Ghysabad, on which you will distinguish a few characters *apparently* Páli in shape. I have had the stones much reduced in size, as they were over-large and heavy for carriage ; but this cutting has in no way interfered with the inscriptions on them. I may again mention that the stones were built into rude steps leading up to a small Durgah, in which is said to be the tomb of Sultan Ghyas-ood-deen. The ground near the Durgah is covered with the debris of an ancient Hindu temple of Tribeni. I doubt the tomb at Ghysabad being that of Ghyas-ood-deen. One Ghyas-ood-deen reigned A. H. 769 and was buried with his two sons Zayn-oolab ideen and Wahaz-ood-deen at Peroa in a mosque called the Eklakhee. Among the early conquerors of Bengal I find a Sultan “Hoesam-ood-deen avuz Ghyas-ood-deen ;” but he was killed near Gour in battle, by Nassir-ood-deen (the prince reigned in 609, A. H.), and was probably buried on the spot. It was near the Durgah that the small gold coins were found, which I sent to you last cold weather ; others have been found lately. A twelve-armed figure, of which the enclosed is a sketch, was found during the last dry season in the bed of an old tank. The carving is rude and unfinished, and the figure here and there defective, as you may perceive. In the hand holding the sacred shell, I fancy the idol must represent Vishnu or rather his incarnation, as I know of no twelve-armed god amongst the numberless Hindu deities, nor can any pundit here enlighten me ! You will see that the hands hold the saw, the boar, the lotus, a bird, a half human figure, an elephant's head, a shell and some undistinguishable object, imperfect on the stone. I have not sent the idol, as it is, as you see, mutilated (of course by Kala Pahar), but will do so if you think it worth preserving in the Museum. I think I mentioned to you before, that the country inland around Ghysabad bespeaks the site of an ancient Hindu city ; numerous dry tanks, blocks of black stone, broken bricks and pottery, with the remains of fountains and roads, are every where to be seen. The name of the city I could not discover, but it is

said to have been founded by Rajáh Muhee Pál. This Rajáh may have been one of the successors of Sumoodru Pál, the Yogee, who followed Vikrama Sen and his son Vikramaditya."

It was proposed by the Council that Captain Layard should be thanked for the two inscriptions and requested to forward, to the Museum, the twelve-armed figure mentioned in his letter.

5th.—From Bábu Rádhanáth Shikdár through Capt. Thuillier, Deputy Surveyor General, Meteorological Registers kept at the Surveyor General's Office, Calcutta, for January and February last.

Mr. Woodrow proposed that measures be taken to procure a return of the fall of rain at places such as Cherra Punjee and Darjeeling.

Ordered that the Secretary have extracts taken from the Registers in the Office of the Medical Board to be published in a condensed form in the Journal of the Society.

The following gentlemen duly proposed and seconded at the last meeting were balloted for and elected ordinary members :

Captain J. C. Haughton, 54th N. I.

George A. Plowden, Esq. C. S.

Lieut. C. H. Dickens, Bengal Artillery.

The Council submitted the following reports.

1st.—Recommending the publication of the *Suryya Siddhánta* in the *Bibliotheca Indica*, under the editorship of Mr. E. Hall.

2nd.—Submitting, for confirmation, draft of a rule for regulating the circulation and retention, by members, of books from the library.

The rule is as follows:—

"All books, plates, &c. taken from the library by parties resident within twenty miles from Calcutta, to be returned for inspection by the 1st January in each year, and to be returnable on the Librarian's demand at the end of three months from date of issue. Where however the books, &c. may not be required for loan to another applicant, they may be retained on re-application for successive periods of three months till the end of the year.

"These applications shall certify to the books, &c. being forthcoming and in good order; and in future the receipt for delivery of all library works shall contain the valuation of the work borrowed according to the Librarian's valuation Catalogue. Books taken by

parties resident beyond twenty miles from Calcutta to be returnable on demand, at the end of three months from the date of issue as above provided, but the Council may, in regard to books issued to such parties, dispense with their actual return by the 1st January in each year, on being satisfied that the books are in good order, and that the Society is not likely to suffer by their not being recalled to the library.

“In order to carry out the valuation part of these provisions, the Committee desire that the Librarian will commence immediately on the systematic valuation of the whole library, and proceed therewith gradually under the direction of the Secretaries until the valuation be complete as to all the printed works.”

Resolved that the recommendations of the Council be adopted.

Read letters:—

6th.—From J. J. Gray, Esq. Goamaty, Maldah, announcing that he has obtained a MS. copy of the History of Bengal by Gholam Hosein entitled “Ryaz-us-Saláteen” and promising to send it to the Society.

7th.—From Dr. Fayrer, Rangoon, forwarding copies of Meteorological Registers kept at the Rangoon Field Hospital, for the months of May and June, 1853.

8th.—From Hodgson Pratt, Esq. Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, enclosing correspondence on the subject of iron found in the Raneegunge district.

9th.—From Captain J. C. Haughton, Cheybassa, submitting the following note on a ruined city in Singbhoom.—

“In No. 103 (Vol. IX. p. 694 et seq.) of the Asiatic Society’s Journal for 1840 is a note by the late Mr. Torrens, appended to Capt. Tickell’s memoir on the Colehan, soliciting further information regarding the antiquities of Singbhoom, and, in No. 186 of 1848, a native report of the existence of a ruined city in this quarter is noticed. Having traversed Singbhoom in almost every direction, I am able to furnish some negative information on the subject, which I now offer for those who take an interest in the question.

“The only remains in the country, known to me, which have any pretensions to antiquity are those at Benee Sagur, Kèsna and Nagra. The two former places have been noticed by Capt. Tickell and

do not, in my opinion, merit particular consideration. Capt. Tickell is said to have sent the Society a gold coin from Kèsna, but I could not learn that any other of gold, silver, or copper had ever been found at Kèsna, Bence Sagar, or Nagra. The offer of a reward produced some small thorn-like pieces of gold, a portion of a gold ring and some stone beads at Kèsna, but elsewhere nothing.

“At Nagra, twenty-three miles S. S. E. from Chyebassa, in the jungles, are some heaps of brick in fragments, spread over a sufficient extent to warrant the supposition, that a town of moderate size once existed there. The remains of a stone-lined tank would indicate some wealth and civilization, but the ruins afford no defineable trace of temple or other building. The former inhabitants of the Purgunnah having been expelled in modern times by the Coles, there is now no local tradition regarding the place. Trees of a century or two's growth flourish on the spot.

“I had some hope that information as to these ancient towns might be gleaned from the Bunsawullee of the Raja of Porahat, or from the local Pundits, but my enquiries have not been attended with success.

“I conclude that if any ruins of importance exist in this direction, they are to be looked for further South in Mohrbunj or Keunjer. The nearest known to me are those of Kiching in Keunjer, and in the opposite direction at various places in Sirgooja, about one hundred miles to the N. W. of this.”

10th.—Read extract from a private letter from Col. Rawlinson, dated Baghdad, 5th July, 1853, containing allusions of interest to the progress of his researches in Assyrian Antiquities.

The Librarian and the Curator of the Zoological Department of the Museum submitted their usual monthly reports.

Read and confirmed. *October 5th, 1853.*

(Signed) J. R. COLVIN.

Report of Curator, Zoological Department, for August Meeting.

1. W. Theobald, Esq. Jr., late of the Punjab Salt Range Survey, has favoured the Society with a collection of mammalia and birds chiefly obtained in the Salt Range, with also a few skins from Kashmir.

The mammalia consist of PTEROPUS EDULIS (v. *Edwardsii*), MYOTIS

PALLIDIVENTRIS, (Hodgson),* in spirit, "from limestone caves near Matar Nag, N. of Islamabad" (Kashmir),—VULPES FLAVESCENS (?), Gray,†—HERPESTES NYULA, Hodgson, var. (with bright rufous face and tail-tip),‡—H. AUROPUNCTATUS, Hodgson,—FELIS CHAUS, Guld. (v. *Jacquemontii*, Is. C. Hoff., &c.),—F. HUTTONI, nobis, *J. A. S.* XV, 169,§—ERINACEUS

* Extremely close to the European *M. PIPISTRELLUS*, but may readily be distinguished by the much greater length of the fore-thumb, which, with its claw, measures nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (not following the curvature of the claw). The general hue of fur of the upper-parts appears to run greyer or less fulvous, and of the under-parts to be more albescent, than in the European Pipistrelle; but there may be considerable variation of shades of colour. Capt. Hutton's Masuri Pipistrelle (*J. A. S.* XXI, 36⁰), is again distinct, being of a much darker colour than the two others, and it is especially characterized by the diminutive size of the foot, which, with claws, scarcely exceeds $\frac{3}{16}$ in.,—MYOTIS PARVIPES, nobis, *n. s.* In other respects the three species are very closely affined.

† Much brighter-coloured than Afghan specimens, and the tints purer and more strongly contrasted; the legs much paler, or more rufescent and less nigrescent, than in the larger *V. MONTANUS* of the sub-Himalayas generally. Size, and the proportions of skull, the same as in the Fox of Afghanistan and Persia.

‡ Mr. Gray has recently noticed two *Herpestidine* animals from Ceylon (*Ann. Mag. N. H.*, July, 1853, p. 47). One, his *HERPESTES SMITHII*, *Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1837, II, 578, = *H. rubiginosus*, Kelaart, v. *Elhoti*, nobis, *J. A. S.* XX, 162, 184, XXI, 348, and inhabits also the Nilgiris and Travancore. The other, *CYNICTIS MACARTHIE*, Gray (*loc. cit.*), does not seem to be *H. FULVESCENS* (v. *flavidens*), Kelaart, *J. A. S.* XX, 162, 184, XXI, 348; but may nevertheless prove to be no other. A *CYNICTIS*, however, should have no fifth toe to the hind-foot, which exists in *H. FULVESCENS*.

§ This seems to be the same small Cat, affined to the domestic races, as that of which an imperfect skin was procured by Capt. Thomas Hutton at Kandahar; but the fur of Capt. Hutton's specimen is much longer, indicating probably the winter vesture, whereas Mr. Theobald's specimen has short fur, and might well pass for a variety of the domestic Cat, which perhaps it is. I incline, however, to the opinion that it is probably one of several wild types which have merged in domestication to produce the domestic Cat. Now the resemblance of the domestic Cat of Bengal, and I believe of India generally (if not also of Egypt, Barbary, and even Spain?), to the wild *F. MANICULATA*, Rüppell, is most manifest; but this is far from being the case with the tame Cats of northern Europe, the resemblance of which to the European wild Cat (*F. SYLVESTRIS*, Aldrovand,) becomes much stronger to an eye familiarized with the appearance of the domestic Cats of India, than to that of an observer unacquainted with the latter. It is not probable that

COLLARIS, Gray, *Hardw. Ill. Ind. Zool.*,*—SCIURUS PALMARUM, L. (*verus*),
—MUS DUBIUS, Hodgson (apparently, from Aliábad Serai, top of Pir

F. SYLVESTRIS has more than contributed to the production of the domestic breed of northern Europe; yet sufficiently to have influenced the characters of that breed, by frequent intermixture probably in times when the domestic Cat was introduced and continued rare, while F. SYLVESTRIS was far more abundant than at present. The domestic Cats of India interbreed occasionally with F. CHAUS, and also with F. RUBIGINOSA of the Coromandel coast and Ceylon, as I have been assured by Mr. Walter Elliot (vide *J. A. S.* XVII, 247, 559).—Since the preceding note was penned, I have received the following notice from Mr. Theobald, in answer to some enquiries which I made of him.—“The FELIS HUTTONI is one of the three common wild Cats well known to *Shikáris* in the Salt Range,—viz. F. HUTTONI, F. CHAUS, and a large black species which I have not seen. I also shot one which is similar to, but, I think, smaller than F. CHAUS: I have only, however, the head of it.”—The word “black” here probably refers merely to a dark colour.—“I should add that the F. HUTTONI has red eyes.”

* The species is founded on the figure cited, and has never been described. General Hardwicke’s specimen was from the Doab. Capt. Hutton’s Hedgehog from Buhawulpur (*J. A. S.* XIV, 351), referred dubiously to E. COLLARIS, is probably distinct and new. Mr. Gray’s British Museum specimen, from “Madras,” presented by Mr. Walter Elliot, is probably E. MICROPUS, nobis (*J. A. S.* XV, 170), from the Nilgiris; whence also the example in the Society’s museum, the locality of which is stated to have been unknown, *loc. cit.* (vide *J. A. S.* V, 191); and this southern species, though proximately affined to E. COLLARIS, is very obviously distinct from it. Perhaps, however, Capt. Hutton’s third specimen of supposed COLLARIS (*J. A. S.* XIV, 351,) may be no other, as formerly suggested (in XV, 570). It is by no means probable that a second species of Hedgehog inhabits the Nilgiris. In Nepal, Mr. Hodgson enumerates three species of this genus, E. SPATANGUS and E. GRAYI of Bennet, and E. COLLARIS, Gray (*Calc. Journ. Nat. Hist.* IV, 288). In Capt. Hutton’s supposed E. COLLARIS from Buhawulpur, the quills were “white on the basal half, and jet-black on the upper half;” in Mr. Theobald’s three specimens from the Punjab Salt Range, the quills have their terminal third black, also the extreme base, and the rest whitish with a broad dusky ring, about equal to each whitish ring above and below it. In other respects they accord, as well as can be made out, with Hardwicke’s figure. Unfortunately, there are no skulls with them (though one has since been promised by Mr. Theobald); and one of the skins is too much injured to be of any use, though the other two have been mounted. Length of tarsus, to tips of claws, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Mr. Gray also mentions an ERINACEUS MENTALIS, Black-chinned Hedgehog,” from the Himalaya: but with this we are wholly unacquainted.

Panjal Pass), *—*M. THEOBALDI*, nobis, *n. s.*, †—*HYSTRIX HIRSUTIROSTRIS*, Brandt (*H. leucurus*, Sykes), 2 skulls,—*OVIS VIGNEI*, nobis, skins of old female and of young male, also some skulls and frontlets,—*CAPRA SAKIN*, (the Himalayan Ibex), skull of a female,—*GAZELLA CORA*, H. Smith (*H. Bennettii*, Sykes), skull and horns of male,—and skulls of *SUS INDICUS*, Gray.

The most interesting of the birds are a specimen of the recently described *NUCIFRAGA MULTIMACULATA*, Gould, from Kashmir,—ditto of the *Seesee* Partridge, *AMMOPERDIX BONHAMI*, from the Panjab Salt Range,—a small Bunting, *EUSPIZA*, perhaps new, ‡—a new *MIRAFRA*, sent entire in spirit, as also a skin, §—*ACCENTOR ATROGULARIS*, nobis,—and *CORYDALLA RUFULA*, (Jerdon); the last being a species which was discovered on the Nilgiris, but whose chief range would now appear to be the N. W. Himalaya.

Also a fresh-water Crab (*THELPHEUSA*).

3. Fulwar Skipwith, Esq., C. S. Skin of *RHIZOMYS PRUINOSUS*, nobis, *J. A. S. XX*, 519, from Sylhet.

* The same Mouse, to all appearance, as one sent by Capt. Sherwill from Darjiling (*ante* p. 409); but certainly not the young of *M. URBANUS*, Hodgson, the description of which seems to indicate the *M. MANEI*, Gray, or common House Mouse of all India.

† Like *M. GERBILLINUS*, nobis (*ante* p. 410); but larger, with comparatively shorter tail and larger feet. Dimensions of an adult female.—Length of head and body $2\frac{7}{8}$ in.; tail $2\frac{5}{8}$ in.; ears $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; tarse and toes $\frac{1}{16}$ in.

‡ *EUSPIZA*, female. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.; of wing nearly 3 in.; and tail $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. Brown, with narrow medial dusky streaks to coronal feathers, and a conspicuous pale narrow supercilium: shoulder of wing and margins of the alars deep maroon-brown: lower parts rufescent, streakless. Legs pale.

§ *M. PHENICUROIDES*, nobis. Affined to *M. PHENICURA*, Franklin, but the general hue less rufescent; the under-parts pale fulvous-grey, albescent on throat; tail brown, faintly rufescent at its extreme base, and on the exterior web of the outermost feather; broad margins to inner webs of the primaries and secondaries, with the axillaries, also pale rufescent, imparting this hue to the inner surface of the wing. Wing $3\frac{7}{8}$ in., the short first primary $1\frac{1}{8}$ in., and $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. shorter than the second, which is $\frac{1}{4}$ in. less than the next three, which are equal. Tail $2\frac{3}{8}$ in.; bill to gape $\frac{5}{8}$ in.; tarse $\frac{7}{8}$ in.; and hind-claw $\frac{5}{16}$ in. Hab. Kashmir.

There are also the wings and feet of a large female *CARPODACUS* (apparently); the wings measuring $4\frac{5}{8}$ in., with tertiaries $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. shorter than the primaries; and tarse 1 in.

4. Capt. M. Turnbull. A fresh specimen of *SCIURUS HYPOLEUCOS*, Horsf., "from the Straits." Sumatra is the habitat of this species; and not Madagascar, as stated by Col. Hamilton Smith, in his volume on mammalia in the 'Naturalist's Library.' It belongs to the true S. E. Asiatic type of gigantic Squirrels.

5. Mr. J. Harley. A dead *LORIUS DOMICELLA*.

6. From Barrackpore. Dead specimens of *NYCTICEBUS TARDIGRADUS*, *HYSTRIX BENGALENSIS*, and *PHASIANUS TORQUATUS*.

7. From myself. Various specimens in spirit procured by C. S. Bowring, Esq., in Hongkong. Among them is a small Bat, which is probably *SCOTOPHILUS IRRETITUS* (*Vespertilio irretitus*, Cantor, *Ann. Nat. Hist.* IX, 481). Form typical, with two pairs of permanent upper incisors. Entire length of female $3\frac{1}{8}$ in., of which tail $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. Expanse $8\frac{1}{8}$ in. Forearm $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. Tarse $\frac{9}{16}$ in. Ears (posteriorly) $\frac{3}{8}$ in. Colour brown-black, with slight pale tips to the fur of the upper-parts; below somewhat less deep-coloured, with the pale tips to the fur more developed, and towards the vent and base of thighs the prevailing hue is whitish. Ears, limbs and membranes uniformly blackish. *V. IRRETITUS* from Chusan, as described by Dr. Cantor, accords in dimensions; but the fur of the upper-parts is given as "soft brownish-grey; that of the abdomen dust-coloured." According to my recollection, however, of Dr. Cantor's specimen, it was as dark as the female now before me; for I especially remember suspecting its identity with the common minute species of all India, *SC. COROMANDELIANUS*, (F. Cuv.), which I have likewise seen from Singapore.

Of reptiles, are included an apparently new Scinque (*PLESTIODON QUADRILINEATUM*, nobis),—a small *HEMIDACTYLUS*,—*CORONELLA RUSSELLII*, *COLUBER RADIATUS*; *DIPSAS MULTIMACULATA*, *TROPIDONOTUS UMBRATUS*, and *HYDRUS STRIATUS*, with also a few *INSECTA* and other sundries which do not need to be here enumerated.

E. BLYTH.

LIBRARY.

Additions to the Library during the past month have been the following:—

Presented.

Observations made at the Magnetical and Meteorological Observatory at Hobart Town in Van Diemen's Land. Printed under the superintendence of Col. E. Sabine, vol III. London, 1853.—BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Jury-Institutionen i Storbritanien, Canada og de forenede Stater af

Amerika. Vol. II. Christiania, 1851.—BY THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF CHRISTIANIA.

Über Micha den Morastheten und Seine prophetische Schrift von Dr. C. P. Caspari. 2nd part. Christiania, 1852, 8vo.—BY THE SAME.

Nyt Magazin for Naturvidenskaberne. Vol. 7. p. 1.—BY THE SAME.

Fortegnelse over Jordegods og andre Herlighéder tilhørende erkebiskopsstolen i nidaros affattet ved erkebiskop aslak bolts Foranstaltning mellem aarene 1832 og 1849. P. A. Munch. Christiania, 1852.—BY THE SAME.

Det norske Sprogs væsentligste Ordforraad, sammenlignet med Sanskrit og andre Sprog af samme Æt. Bidrag til en norsk etymologisk Ordbog, af C. A. Holmboe. Wien, 1852, 4to.—BY THE AUTHOR.

Memoires de l'Academie des Sciences, Arts et Belles Lettres de Dijon, Année, 1850.—BY THE ACADEMY.

Selections from the Public Correspondence of the Board of Administration for the affairs of the Punjab. No. 4, 4 copies.—BY THE BOARD.

Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government, No. XII. Embankments of the Damooda. 2 copies.—BY THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

Journal Asiatique, No. 3.—BY THE SOCIÉTÉ ASIATIQUE.

Bibidhārtha Sangraha, No. 21.—BY THE EDITOR.

Satyárnab, Vol. III.—BY THE REV. J. LONG.

Vedánta Darsana, Nos. 7, 8.—BY THE EDITOR.

Ditto ditto.—BY BA'BU JADAVAKRISHNA SINHA.

Annual Report of the Tattwabodhiná Sabhá for 1774 Saka.—BY THE SABHÁ'.

Tattwabodhiní Patriká, No. 120.—BY THE SAME.

The Upadesaka, No. 81.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Missionary, Nos. 8, 9.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Oriental Baptist, No. 81.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Oriental Christian Spectator for July, 1853.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Calcutta Christian Observer for Sept. 1853.—BY THE EDITOR.

Abstract of the Results of the Hourly Meteorological Observations taken at the Surveyor General's Office, Calcutta, for the months of Jan. and Feb., 1853.—BY BA'BU RA'DHA'NA'TH SIKDA'R.

The Citizen for August and Sept. 1853.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Purnachandrodaya for Ditto.—BY THE EDITOR.

Exchanged.

The London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, Nos. 34, 5, 6. Jameson's Journal, No. 102.

Purchased.

Comptes Rendus, Nos. 19 to 26.

Journal des Savants for May and June, 1853.

The Annals and Magazine of Natural History for June and July, 1853.

Maurice on the Religions of the World.

Christomathie aus Sanskritwerken.—VON T. BENFEY.

Vollständige Grammatik der Sanskritsprache.—VON T. BENFEY.

Williams's English Sanskrita Dictionary.

RA'JENDRALA'L MITTRA.

FOR OCTOBER, 1853.

The Society met on the 5th instant, at the usual hour.

J. R. COLVIN, Esq., V. P., in the Chair.

The proceedings of the last month were read and confirmed, and the accounts and vouchers for the month of July laid on the table.

Presentations were received—

1st. From J. Ackermann, Esq., Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, London, the latest publications of the Society (vide Library Report).

2nd. From the Government of India, through T. Oldham, Esq., Superintendent of Geological Survey, specimens of rocks and earths from the gold bearing districts in the vicinity of Mount Ophir, Malacca, collected by T. Braddell, Esq., Assistant Resident.

3rd. From the Bombay Government through Lieut. E. F. Fergusson, I. N., Superintendent of the Government Observatory, Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the Bombay Observatory during 1850.

4th. From the Bengal Government through W. Gordon Young, Esq. Under-Secretary, a Map of the district of Purneah surveyed by Messrs. FitzPatrick and J. J. Pemberton.

5th. From Captain Young, Rangoon, a large slab of marble, bearing a figure of the impression of the foot of Guadama.

6th. From the British Government through Her Majesty's

Minister for Foreign Affairs, two copies of a sketch of the Bornu or Kanuri language, with dialogues, translations and vocabulary drawn up by Mr. Norris, translator of foreign languages in the Foreign Office, from papers sent to England by the late Mr. James Richardson while employed in the interior of Africa.

Mr. Addington's letter points out "that the grammatical sketch is confined to the Bornu language, and the lithographic fac-similes contain materials for a work in the Hansa or Soudanese language also; of which language, however, there is already a Grammar in print by the Rev. Mr. Schöu."

7th. From Major Saunders Alexius Abbott through Major J. Abbott, three silver Greek coins.

The following is an extract from Major J. Abbott's letter.

"I have the pleasure to send, in this packet from my brother Major Saunders Alexius Abbott, Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpoor, a silver coin which I do not remember to have seen described. It is a hemidrachm of the Arianian king Dionusos, and seems entitled to hold place immediately after the coinage of Apollodotos and immediately before that of Zoilos. As, however, I am travelling and have no means of reference to the list of coins, my memory may deceive me as to its rarity.

"Like the circular hemidrachms of Apollodotos the execution is very rude and far inferior to that of the copper coinage of the latter king.

The type is as follows :

Head of the King facing the East.

Β Α Σ Ι Α Ε Ω Σ Σ Ω Τ Η Ρ Ο Σ Δ Ι Ο Ν Υ Σ Ι Ο Υ .

R. Pallas with the Ægis thundering.

"Four coins of this type, with about thirty other silver coins of the same figures and size, were found together by a little boy, as he dug in the bank of a village near Anundpoor, Makowal, on the left bank of the Sutlej above Roopur. Of these coins one was of Lusias, several were of Zoilos, and the rest were of Apollodotos. All so much resembled one another (that of Lusias excepted) as to be easily mistaken for coins of a single type.

"The use of the title Soter and the appearance of Pallas thundering, seem to ally these coins with the coinage of Menander, Apol-

lodotos and Zoilos, while the occurrence of the coins together, seems to give additional probability to the alliance.

“ I have the pleasure to add in my brother’s name a coin of Zoilos found with the above and another of Apollodotos. The latter, differing somewhat in type from those in my collection, may possibly be acceptable to the Society.”

8th. From Major Turton, specimen of a fossil root from Prome (vide Proceedings for July last.)

9th. From Major Baker, on the part of Major H. Fraser, specimens of fossil shells from the banks of the Irrawaddy at Prome.

10th. From Dr. Fayer, Rangoon, a Burmese water jar of curious construction.

11th. From Captain Layard, a twelve-armed figure found in a tank at Ghysabad (vide Proceedings for the last month.)

12th. From E. C. Craster, Esq., C. S., a gold coin of Toghlak Shah found in the ruins of Gour.

Read a note from G. R. French, Esq. requesting to withdraw his name from the list of members.

Communications were received :—

1st. From Walter Elliot, Esq. Vizagapatam, enclosing a list of Tamil and Canarese works, published at the press of the London Missionary Society, Ballery.

2nd. From Bábu Rádhánáth Sikdár, Superintendent of the Observatory, through Captain Thuillier, enclosing Meteorological Registers kept at the Surveyor General’s Office, Calcutta, for the months of March, April, May, June, July and August, 1853.

3rd. From W. Muir, Esq. enclosing copy of Meteorological Register kept at the Government Secretariat Office, Agra, for the month of May, 1853.

4th. From Major J. Abbott, Deputy Commissioner in the Hazara, communicating note of an investigation which he has recently made of the ruins at Maunkyala.

Resolved that the paper be published in the Journal.

5th. From G. Couper, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, enclosing correspondence, received from the Bombay Government, on the subject of chintz printing at Tatta in Scinde.

6th. From Norton Shaw, Esq., Secretary, Geographical Society, London, acknowledging receipt of Journal No. 39.

7th. From John Barlow, Esq., Secretary Royal Institution, London, acknowledging receipt of the Catalogue of Birds.

8th. From H. Piddington, Esq., Curator, Museum of Economic Geology, submitting a note on Nepalite, believed to be a new mineral from the neighbourhood of Kathmandoo.

The Curators and the Librarian submitted reports of additions made to their respective departments during the past month.

Thanks having been voted for the above donations and communications, the meeting adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

(Signed) J. W. COLVILLE.

Nov. 2nd, 1853.

Report of Zoological Curator for September Meeting.

At the last meeting of the Society, it was mentioned by the President that Dr. A. Campbell of Darjiling had forwarded some skins for our museum, of mammalia from Tibet. These have since come to hand, and two of them seem to pertain to species hitherto undescribed.

One is an imperfect skin of a Bear, termed by Dr. Campbell the "Blue Bear of Tibet. The people assure me," he writes, "that it is not an accidental colour, but that it is a well known species, distinct from TIBETANUS, and from the white one or Arctic species" (qu. ISABELLINUS, mentioned subsequently by Dr. Campbell). "I am trying to get a skull, and a perfect skin for the Society." This Bear has a fine coat, of longer and softer fur than in cis-Himalayan TIBETANUS, but not so long nor shaggy as in fine specimens of ISABELLINUS: the colour black, with hoary or light brown tips which impart a very characteristic appearance; hence PRUINOSUS would be an appropriate name, if it prove to be a distinct species. The hoary tips to the fur disappear upon the limbs, which are wholly black (so much of them at least as are shewn in the specimen); and there is the same narrow white V-like mark on the breast as in the Himalayan Bear known as U. TIBETANUS,—of which my impression is that this Tibetan animal will prove to be a trans-nivean variety, and that the name TIBETANUS, therefore, is more correctly applicable to the species than has been supposed.

Two Badger skins are sent, evidently of distinct species and even genera. One is the TAXIDEA LEUCURUS described and figured by Mr. Hodgson in *J. A. S. XVI, 763*. The other is a true MELES affined to the European Badger, but which I adjudge to be distinct because it has a

white throat, whereas the European Badger (of which we possess two mounted specimens for comparison) has constantly a black throat. From the *TAXIDEA* of Tibet it differs altogether, as much as the European Badger differs from the N. American *TAXIDEA*: it has smaller and much less tufted ears, a shorter and much less brushy tail, and the fur shorter and coarser, though of finer texture than in the European Badger, with much woolly hair at its base. General colour as in *MELES TAXUS*, but the throat white as aforesaid, and the markings of the face are different. In *M. TAXUS* the head is white, and a broad and well defined blackish-brown band commences midway to the eye and muzzle, is continued through the eye and ear, and gradually disappears upon the shoulder; the bands of the two sides leaving a broad and well defined white interspace, which contracts and is gradually lost posterior to the ears. In the Tibetan Badger (*M. ALBOGULARIS, nobis*), the white interspace referred to contracts immediately behind the eyes, and continues as a narrow and ill defined band so far as between the ears only; the lateral dark bands proportionally expanding behind the eyes, and all merging in the grizzled hue of the back from the occiput, and not from the shoulder backward as in *M. TAXUS*. In the European Badger the cheeks are broadly white, bordered above by the dark band through the eye, and below by the black throat. In the Tibetan Badger there is little white below the eye, and this ill-defined; and it is bordered below by a narrow dark band, beyond which is the white throat. I do not doubt that these distinctions will prove permanent, as the European Badger is not subject to vary in its peculiar markings (though some affined animals, as the American Skunks and African Zorilles, certainly do, to a greater or less extent in different species). The Tibetan Badger is probably also a smaller animal than that of Europe.*

While examining our series of the Badger group, my attention was attracted to another undescribed species, which I have recognised as dis-

* *N. B.* It would seem that Mr. Hodgson has figured the exterior of the Tibetan *TAXIDEA*, and the skull of the Tibetan *MELES* as that of the *TAXIDEA*; little suspecting the existence of a true *MELES* also in Tibet. In this case, the Tibetan true Badger would be fully as large as that of Europe. It is also probable that the identical specimens were forwarded to the Hon'ble Company's museum by Mr. Hodgson, being those noticed by Mr. Gray in *Ann. Mag. N. H.* Sept. 1853, p. 221. There can, assuredly, not be the least doubt of the specific, if not generic, distinctness of the two Tibetan specimens now sent by Dr. Campbell, although the skulls of both are unfortunately wanting.

inct for many years, but awaited further information concerning its distribution, &c., before bringing it to notice in the Society's Journal. This is a second species of *Bhaloo-soor* or Hog-badger, which may be designated—

ARCTONYX TAXOIDES, nobis, *n. s.* Adult about half the size of the adult of *A. COLLARIS*, F. Cuv. : having a much longer and finer coat, very like that of the European Badger but softer, though not so long and soft as in *TAXIDEA*; the muzzle less broad and Hog-like than in *A. COLLARIS*; the ears also are proportionally smaller than in that species; the tail is shorter; and the colours and markings, though similar, are much brighter. Greatest length of skull of a fully adult (but not aged) male of *A. COLLARIS*, $6\frac{3}{8}$ in.; greatest breadth of zygomata, posteriorly, $3\frac{1}{8}$ in.; length of bony palate 4 in.; width at posterior great molar $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. In an aged female *A. COLLARIS*, the same admeasurements are $6\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{8}$, $3\frac{7}{8}$, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. In a fully adult female of *A. TAXOIDES*, $4\frac{3}{4}$, $2\frac{3}{8}$, $2\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. Dentition of the upper jaw similar in the two species: in the lower jaw, the interspace between the second and third præmolars is proportionally much greater in *A. COLLARIS* than in *A. TAXOIDES*. Lastly, the large species attains with age a strongly marked sagittal crest, which I doubt is ever seen in the other. Our two specimens of *A. TAXOIDES* are respectively from Asám and Arakan; so that both species inhabit the same range of territory, and are probably commonest in Sylhet.

Two other skins sent by Dr. Campbell are those of the Tibetan Lynx (*F. ISABELLINA*, nobis, *J. A. S. XVI*, 1178), and of the *FELIS MACROCELIS* (*v. macroceloides*, Hodgson). Of the latter, we previously possessed two mounted specimens, both sent from Darjiling; and a skin from the Ya-madong mountains which separate Arakan from Pegu. I also lately saw two living specimens from Upper Asám; and have been assured, on good authority, that the species is not uncommon in the north of China. Mr. Hodgson states it to inhabit Tibet; and it was originally discovered by Raffles in the mountains of Sumatra. At least, no satisfactory distinction has been pointed out between *MACROCELIS* of Sumatra and *MACROCELOIDES* of Tibet; and as the latter is positively the same from Upper Asám and the mountains of *Arakan*, there would be nought remarkable in its range extending along the mountainous spine of the Malayan peninsula and that also of Sumatra. A nearly affined but much smaller species, common in the Malayan Peninsula, is *F. MARMORATA*; and this also we have from Upper Asám! (*J. A. S. XVII*, 83.) Both are about the most eminently arboreal of the Cat tribe, judging from the Asámese specimens which I saw alive, and which were most graceful and accomplished climbers, with much of the action,

probably, of the diminutive PRIONODON. The large F. UNCIA has also nearly the same proportions, with similar very long and well furred tail; and it may prove to be equally arboreal in the mountain pine-forests. The proper ground Cats for little wooded districts are the Lynxes, which are the extreme opposites in structure to the true Leopard group, wherein the three preceding species are comprised. Yet even the Lynxes are not bad climbers; whereas there are some few Cats, as the three largest of all, the Lion, Tiger, and Jaguar, which never ascend trees, as the Leopard does so very commonly. That the Cheeta (F. JUBATA) is no climber, is much less to be wondered at.

Together with the male specimen of the *Shou*, or Tibetan Stag, presented on a former occasion by Dr. Campbell,—the horns of which are far from having attained a first-rate magnitude, as shewn by Mr. Hodgson's figure and description in *J. A. S. X*, 722, as well as by his subsequent description, *ibid.* XX, 388,—I have now the pleasure of exhibiting for comparison a noble frontlet and horns of the *Wapiti* Stag of N. America, C. CANADENSIS. To any person who has made a study of the subject, and is conversant with the essential distinctions observable among the horns of different species of Deer, over and above the variations to which all are liable, those specific distinctions are exceedingly well marked in the horns of the *Shou* and of the *Wapiti*. As long ago stated by me of a fine Stag-horn from Kashmir, the species being (as I now feel more than ever confident) the same as that of Tibet, of Persia (where known as the *Maral*), and in all probability that of the southern parts of Siberia and of the north of China,—“the general character of horn [of the great Asiatic Stag] is intermediate to that of the *Wapiti* and European Stag, but agreeing more nearly with the latter in its kind of granulated surface.”* With the horns of all three species now before me, aided by familiar recollection of numerous horns of C. ELAPHUS, the typical character of the latter, or European Stag, is to have the most roughly granulated surface to the horn, decidedly; in the Asian Stag, the rugosity is well marked, but smoothened a good deal, so as to be much less harsh to the feel; and in the N. American Stag there is scarcely any roughness whatever, the horn being smoother than in the Fallow Deer. Hence I suspect that, in the great majority of instances, these horns might be readily enough distinguished by the *feel* alone. Next, the tendency to flatten, or palmate, in the crown of the *Wapiti* horn is very decided, from the base of the median on “royal antler” upward or onward. The utmost transverse depth of this palmature, at the base of the main fork of the crown, in the

* *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1840, p. 80.

pair of *Wapiti* horns now exhibited, amounts to 7 in., by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. breadth. Nothing of the kind is ever seen in the European Stag, nor (it would seem) in the Asian species. Again, the tendency in the *Wapiti* is to have the crown not only flattened, but further subdivided than in the Asian *Shou*, in which, we may now venture to affirm, it rarely more than simply bifurcates; but Capt. Cunningham assured Mr. Hodgson that "the Kashmir Stag has, sometimes, a double fork at the top of its horns."* Such is shewn in the *Wapiti* horns now before the meeting; the crown first bifurcating, with a considerable amount of palmation as already described, this flattening being continued on each branch, and the hinder of these again bifurcating, while the anterior bifurcates imperfectly on the left horn, and tends towards the same form on the right horn; the posterior prong of the anterior main branch of each crown being the defective one. Next (and this I remember well to be characteristic of the *Wapiti*), the posterior main branch of the crown does not slant somewhat abruptly inwards, like the usually undivided posterior prong of the (in general) simply bifurcating crown of the Asian *Shou*, but inclines directly backward and somewhat downward, with a tendency to subdivide again and again, as shewn in the otherwise abnormal *Wapiti* horn (No. 4) figured in *J. A. S. X.*, plate 4, p. 750. Another marked and distinctive character of an average *Shou* horn is the comparatively very abrupt bend of the beam from the base of the median or royal antler, which, with the equally abrupt slant inward of the posterior prong of the bifurcating crown, imparts a sort of lyrate aspect to the pair, very different from the more even curvature of beam seen in the *Wapiti*. Lastly, still another character very commonly present in *Wapiti* horns, and scarcely if ever seen in those of the *Shou* and European Stag, consists in the presence of a small snag between the bases of the brow and bez antlers, and a little to the front; which is distinctly shewn, though small, in both horns of the pair before us.

2. To Babu Rajendra Mallika, we are indebted for a fine stuffed specimen of a young Cassowary, retaining much of the brown plumage of youth, though at the time of its death it was putting forth the black plumage of maturity; and the two are throughout intermixed in the specimen. Also a dead Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*CACATUA EOS*); and a broken egg of *CYGNUS ATRATUS*.

3. From Dr. Fayer, late of Rangoon. A few specimens in spirit, comprising *ELAPS MELANURUS*, *HOMOLOPSIS HYDRINA*, Cantor, *BUNGARUS CANDIDUS*, *SCORPIO AFEE*, and a few other sundries.

* *J. A. S. XX.*, 393.

4. Capt. S. R. Tickell, now of Maulmain. A skin of the great Fire-back Pheasant, or Macartney cock (*EUPLOCOMUS IGNITUS*), and one of *ARDETTA SINENSIS*.

E. BLYTH.

LIBRARY.

The following additions have been made to the library since the last meeting.

Presented.

Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for 1852.—BY THE ASSOCIATION.

Catalogue of Stars near the Ecliptic observed at Markree, during the years 1851-52, and whose places are supposed to be hitherto unpublished, Vol. II. containing 15,298 stars. Dublin, 1853.—BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Nuovo Dizionario Italiano-Francesco,-Armeno-Turco, compilato sui Migliori Vocabolarii di queste Quattro lingue dai Padri della congregazione Mechitaristica. Vienna, 1846, Royal 8vo.—BY J. AVDALL, ESQ.

Zeitschrift der Deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft, VII. Band, 3 heft.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Indische Studien, II. Band, 3 heft.—BY THE SAME.

Journal Asiatique, June, 1853.—BY THE SOCIÉTÉ ASIATIQUE.

Address at the Anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, by Sir R. Murchison.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, Nos. 34, 35.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Address delivered at the Anniversary meeting of the Geological Society of London on the 18th of February, 1853, by W. Hopkins, Esq.—BY THE SAME.

Calcutta Christian Observer for November, 1853.—BY THE EDITORS.

Journal of the Indian Archipelago for February and March, 2 copies.—BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Oriental Christian Spectator for September.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Upadeshak, No. 83.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Oriental Baptist, No. 83.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Missionary for October, 1853.—BY THE EDITOR.

Tuttwabodhiní Patriká, No. 123.—BY THE TUTTWABODHINI' SOBHA'.

Bibidhârtha Sangraha, No. 21.—BY THE EDITOR.

Purnachundrodaya for October.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Citizen for October, 1853.—BY THE PUBLISHER.

Exchanged.

The Philosophical Magazine, No. 37.

The Calcutta Review, No. 41.

Purchased.

The Annals and Magazine of Natural History for August.

Comptes Rendus, Nos. 1 to 4 for July, 1853.

Edinburgh Review, No. 199.

RA'JENDRALA'L MITTRA.

